Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

Annual Report
to Parliament on Immigration
2012

Canada

www.cic.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, 2012
Cat. no. Ci1-2012E-PDF
ISSN 1706-3329
C&I-1612-11-2012

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism 1

Introduction 3

Section 1: Making Immigration Work for Canada 4

- 2011 Achievements 4
- 2012: A Year of Transformation 6
- Canada's Immigration Plan for 2013 8

Section 2: Managing Permanent Immigration and Temporary Migration 9

- Permanent Residents 9
- Temporary Residents 15

Section 3: Federal–Provincial/Territorial Partnerships 19

Section 4: Integration of Newcomers and Canadian Citizenship 23

- Settlement 23
- Canadian Citizenship 26
- Multiculturalism 27

Section 5: Gender-based Analysis of the Impact of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* 28

- Gender-based Analysis of Permanent Resident and Temporary Resident Arrivals 28
- Gender-based Analysis across CIC's Business Lines 33
- Gender-based Research 35

Conclusion 37

Annex: Section 94 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* 38

Endnotes 39

Message from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration.

Canada's rich economic and cultural wealth is the envy of much of the world. Our diverse wealth is due, in part, to the tremendous contributions of immigrants and their descendants who helped to build our enviably prosperous country. Immigration is an integral part of Canada's economic success.

Accordingly, in the coming year of 2013, we will maintain—for the seventh consecutive year—the overall admissions range of 240,000 to 265,000 new permanent residents. This is the highest sustained level of immigration in Canadian history, and this level supports our economic immigration objectives, family reunification goals, and humanitarian obligations.

Canada has a longstanding tradition of welcoming newcomers, but in order to maintain our tradition of openness and generosity, we must ensure that our immigration system functions so as to best support our national interests. Immigration must meet our national economic, cultural and social needs in a highly effective manner. Our immigration system must also employ fair rules and ensure their consistent application. Over the past year, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has continued to focus on meeting these objectives.

It is essential that Canada positions itself as a serious competitor for global talent, so that we can address labour market shortages and strengthen economic growth. To that end, our goal is to create a fast, flexible economic immigration program. The *Economic Action Plan 2012* allowed for a new, modernized Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) Program by eliminating the old application backlog that was characterized by wait times of more than seven years. This backlog initiative allows us to manage and prioritize applications more effectively, enhances our ability to update and apply regulations to new and existing applications, and enables our ability to implement rapid new, short-term economic programs.

Moreover, proposed reforms to the points system for the FSW Program will allow newcomers to "hit the ground running," as we target younger immigrants with Canadian work experience and greater proficiency in an official language. In addition, federal skilled workers will have their foreign education credentials assessed for Canadian equivalency before they apply to immigrate to Canada, to prevent delays in their entry into the Canadian job market. Finally, a new skilled trades stream will encourage immigration of skilled tradespersons so they can fill current labour market shortages. These major reforms will ensure federal skilled workers can better integrate into the Canadian job market and Canadian society.

CIC is also exploring a new application management system based on the expression of interest model currently in use in New Zealand and Australia. This new system would enhance Canada's control over the type and number of skilled worker applications that we accept for processing.

Work is also underway to redesign the Federal Business Immigration Program. A redesigned Business Program will target more active investment in Canadian growth companies as well as entrepreneurs—both of which will transform Canada's economy.

The Department also launched the Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification to address the growing backlog and wait times in the Parents and Grandparents Program (PGP). The Action Plan increased admissions of sponsored parents and grandparents to 25,000 in 2012—the highest level in nearly two

decades—as a means to reduce the existing backlog. It also introduced a temporary pause on the intake of new sponsorship applications. Finally, the Action Plan included the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa, which allows parents and grandparents of Canadian citizens and permanent residents to visit Canada for extended stays.

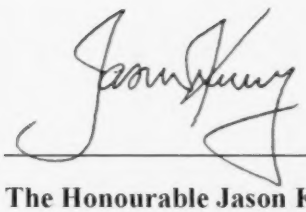
This past year, CIC continued to combat fraud to protect the integrity of our immigration system. We cracked down on marriages of convenience, or marriage fraud, by barring newly sponsored spouses from sponsoring another spouse of their own for five years. We also introduced a new two-year period of conditional permanent residency for sponsored spouses. These changes will deter individuals from entering into relationships of convenience to circumvent Canada's immigration laws. Also, the *Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act* closes loopholes that enable convicted foreign criminals to delay their deportation from Canada.

The *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*—which received Royal Assent in June 2012—will deliver faster decisions on refugee claims, combat human smuggling, and allow for the collection of biometric data from visa applicants. At the same time, Canada continued to uphold its international obligations to protect bona fide refugees both in Canada and abroad. In fact, Canada already resettles 1 in 10 refugees, but is further increasing our intake of resettled refugees by 20 percent.

Finally, CIC seeks to implement key initiatives under the Canada–U.S. Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness Action Plan. For example, an Electronic Travel Authorization system will improve the screening of visa-exempt foreign nationals. We will also enhance information-sharing with the United States, improve immigration and border determinations, and conduct screening at the earliest possible opportunity.

This past year, Citizenship and Immigration Canada initiated a series of transformational changes that enhance Canada's immigration system and allow us to keep pace with our country's evolving needs. We have made tremendous progress and will continue to build on our achievements in the years to come.

I wish to thank the employees at Citizenship and Immigration Canada for their hard work and success in endeavouring to make Canada's immigration system the best in the world.



The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Introduction

The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*[1] came into effect on June 28, 2002, replacing the *Immigration Act* of 1976. Under section 94 of the Act (see Annex), the Minister for Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is required to table an annual report in Parliament on the Department's immigration activities and initiatives. The report focuses on the selection of foreign nationals as permanent and temporary residents during the preceding calendar year. The legislation also requires an overview of federal–provincial/territorial agreements and joint initiatives, as well as a gender-based analysis of the impact of the Act. In addition, the report serves as a vehicle for announcing Canada's immigration plan for the upcoming calendar year.

This report is divided into five sections.

SECTION 1 presents a brief overview of the current context of Canada's immigration program and provides a summary of Canada's immigration levels plan for 2013.

SECTION 2 summarizes activities and initiatives regarding the selection of permanent and temporary residents. It also provides key statistics relating to permanent and temporary residents admitted in 2011.

SECTION 3 focuses on CIC's partnerships with the provinces and territories. It outlines the bilateral agreements currently in force between the federal government and provincial and territorial governments, and describes major joint initiatives.

SECTION 4 provides an overview of settlement and resettlement programs and activities relating to Canadian citizenship.

SECTION 5 describes CIC's framework for gender-based analysis, highlights gender-based analysis activities and provides a statistical overview of gender differences in relation to key immigration statistics.

Section 1: Making Immigration Work for Canada[2]

Immigration has and continues to play a key role in Canadian history. In 2012, Canada celebrated its 145th year as a nation and since Confederation, our country has seen many transformations. People have come to Canada from all over the world with their skills and entrepreneurial talents, to seek new opportunities, to reunite with family members, or to seek security and stability.

The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA)[3] is the legal federal framework for immigration and refugee protection in Canada and it sets out multiple economic, social and humanitarian objectives for Canada's immigration program. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) must balance the role that immigration can play to support Canada's economy with the reunification of families and the fulfillment of our humanitarian responsibilities. It must also protect the health, safety and security of Canadians while facilitating the flow of people to our country.

This section of the Annual Report looks back on CIC's progress in 2011 in modernizing Canada's immigration system, presents the latest transformative initiatives of 2012 that are shaping a fast and flexible system, and looks to the way forward in 2013.

2011 Achievements

In 2011, CIC continued to modernize the way it does business by moving toward more efficient and effective processing, stronger program integrity and improved client service.

Improvements to the way CIC does business

Increased centralization of processing applications in Canada, instead of overseas, allows CIC to be more efficient, save money and create jobs in Canada. Centralization is effective for applications that are more straightforward and low risk. In 2011, CIC increased the network of third-party visa application centres[4] overseas that will support improved service to those wishing to visit or move to Canada. For example, client service agents can provide administrative support to applicants, such as explaining in local languages how to fill out forms and ensure that applications are complete. There are now 60 visa application centres in 41 countries around the world.

CIC remains committed to improving client service through the implementation of 17 service standards[5] on many of its key business lines. In 2011–2012, CIC met nine of these standards, and the Department is working continuously to implement measures to improve performance against these commitments over the medium term. Electronic systems are also being modernized to make better use of technology and administrative processes, such as on-line and electronic applications and payment. These changes improve and further streamline service for applicants.[6]

Improvements for travellers across the Canada–United States border

To support economic growth, the Government of Canada is striving to make movement easier across our border neighbouring the United States for travellers with low security risk. The February 2011 announcement of the Perimeter Security and Economic Competiveness Action Plan[7] outlines initiatives to better facilitate cross-border business, including consulting with stakeholders to get feedback on the action plan commitments as well as to invite new ideas for improving cross-border business.

Improvements to support Canada's economic growth and reduce backlogs

To further support economic growth and expedite processing, two sets of Ministerial Instructions[8] were developed and implemented over 2011. Ministerial Instructions (section 87.3 of IRPA) are special instructions issued by the Minister to better manage the processing of applications to meet immigration goals. This includes setting caps on the intake of new applications and, for the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) Program, prioritizing the FSW applications of those applicants who have experience in specific in-demand occupations.

In support of the 2008 Action Plan for Faster Immigration,[9] CIC continued to take action to reduce the backlog of applications, reduce wait times and increase labour market responsiveness in the FSW Program. The third set of Ministerial Instructions (MI-3)[10] was launched July 1, 2011, to further limit the intake of new FSW applications with an overall cap of 10,000, with individual caps of 500 for each of the 29 priority in-demand occupations. New FSW applicants who have a job offer in Canada are not subject to the overall or occupations cap. MI-3 also introduced an annual cap of 700 for new applications made under the federal immigrant investor stream, and included a temporary moratorium on entrepreneur applications while that program undergoes design review.

To address the growing backlog and wait time in the Parents and Grandparents Program, CIC launched the Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification[11] at the end of 2011. For 2012, CIC increased the number of planned admissions for parents and grandparents to accept more of them as permanent residents to help reduce the backlog. On November 5, 2011, CIC issued the fourth set of Ministerial Instructions (MI-4),[12] which temporarily paused the acceptance of new sponsorship applications for parents and grandparents so that CIC can work through the applications already received. CIC also consulted Canadians in May 2012 on how to redesign the program so that it will be more responsive, sustainable and viable in the long term. On December 1, 2011, CIC introduced the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa, a follow-up instruction to MI-4. This super visa[13] is a multiple-entry temporary resident visa, with a duration of up to 10 years, that will allow eligible parents and grandparents of Canadian citizens and permanent residents to visit and remain in Canada for up to 24 months at a time without the need to re-apply for a visa. As of the end of August 2012, 86 percent, or over 8,700 Parent and Grandparent Super Visas had been approved.

MI-4 also supported Canada's future economic needs by making access to the FSW Program easier for international students pursuing doctoral studies in Canada and for those who have recently graduated with a Canadian PhD.[14] This stream is capped at 1,000 applications per year.

Improvements to protect potential and new immigrants

To protect potential and new immigrants, Bill C-35,[15] *An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, came into force in June 2011 to strengthen the rules governing immigration consultants, those who charge clients for immigration advice or representation. This bill makes it an offence for anyone other than an accredited immigration representative to conduct business, for a fee or other consideration, at any stage of an application or proceeding. It also increases penalties and fines for unauthorized representation and allows for more government oversight to improve the regulation of immigration consultants. As of June 30, 2011, the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council was designated as the regulator of immigration consultants.

CIC continued work on facilitating permanent residence for up to 1,000 Tibetan refugees from Arunachal Pradesh, India, over a five-year period, a humanitarian effort announced in 2010 through a public policy.[16] Special immigration measures have been developed to maximize community involvement for

this group by focusing on individuals who secured support from the Tibetan community or other interested supporters in Canada. In 2011, CIC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Project Tibet Society, a Canadian-based non-governmental organization, for the purposes of referring and identifying potential candidates to the Department, and work began to establish the procedures for implementation of these special measures.

Additional information on measures undertaken by CIC to improve immigration to better support economic growth and to protect Canadians is available in CIC's *2011–2012 Departmental Performance Report*.[17]

2012: A Year of Transformation

The year 2012 brings with it significant transformation at CIC, with a focus on the role of immigration in supporting Canada's economic growth. As part of CIC's commitment to creating a fast, flexible and responsive immigration system, numerous changes have been implemented this year to align with Canada's evolving economic conditions.

Better meeting Canada's economic needs

Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012[18] prominently featured immigration as a key area of reform. The changes, and accompanying legislative amendments under Bill C-38,[19] the *Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act*, became law on June 29, 2012. These changes aim to create a fast, flexible and responsive immigration system that selects the *best* applicants, not the *first*. Specifically, the changes address the accumulated FSW backlog by terminating applications and returning fees for certain applications received before February 27, 2008; allow new Ministerial Instructions to manage and prioritize applications more effectively; enhance the ability to apply up-to-date regulations to new and existing applications; and enable the creation of targeted, short-term economic programs quickly.

These changes also complement recent reforms to economic immigration programs. For the FSW Program, proposed changes to the existing points system will reward younger immigrants with Canadian work experience and intermediate proficiency in one of Canada's official languages. Under the proposal, future applicants to the FSW Program will need to have their foreign educational credentials assessed for Canadian equivalency before applying to immigrate to Canada. The proposed new skilled trades stream is intended to reduce the barriers to the immigration of skilled tradespersons. Work is under way to redesign the Federal Business Immigration Program to target more active investment in Canadian growth companies and more innovative entrepreneurs.

Strategic groundwork is under way to support a proposal for a new application management system based on the expression of interest model already in use in New Zealand and Australia. Options are under development, in consultation with provinces and territories, for engaging employers in the selection process of applicants under this new system.

The Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program, jointly managed by CIC and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, is also undergoing changes. Bill C-38 enhanced employer compliance monitoring for the TFW Program, and the program will be the subject of a review to improve alignment with labour market demands and to ensure that businesses look to the domestic labour force before accessing the TFW Program.

CIC has also been making progress to improve foreign credential recognition, given the critical importance of validating credentials for immigrants to work in their areas of expertise. As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012, the government intends to support further improvements to foreign credential recognition and will work with provinces and territories to identify the next set of target occupations for inclusion, beyond 2012, under the Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications.[20] This framework is a tool that describes the ideal steps and processes that federal, provincial and territorial governments aspire to develop to address the current gaps to successful immigrant labour market integration.

Improving program integrity

In the spring of 2012, CIC introduced changes to its sponsorship regulations in an ongoing effort to deter people from using a relationship of convenience to come to Canada. New regulations came into force in March barring recently sponsored spouses and partners from sponsoring a new spouse or partner for a period of five years. In April, CIC consulted the public on a proposal to introduce a two-year period of conditional permanent residence for spouses and partners in 'new' relationships (two years or less) with their sponsor at the time of application.

On June 30, a Notice of Intent was published requesting public comments on a proposal to introduce new requirements and conditions for foreign nationals seeking to study in Canada. The proposals are intended to ensure that foreign nationals who obtain study permits enter Canada for the primary purpose of study. CIC seeks to deter foreign nationals from applying for a study permit if their intentions are disingenuous, and prevent foreign nationals from remaining legally in Canada on a study permit should they abandon their studies. These measures are also intended to ensure foreign nationals who hold study permits are studying at educational institutions eligible to host international students.

As part of the Perimeter Security and Economic Competiveness Action Plan, CIC is moving ahead to implement the sharing of information to improve immigration and refugee determinations, better establish the identity of foreign nationals and conduct screening at the earliest opportunity.

In the fall of 2011, the Office of the Auditor General published its report on issuing visas which contained recommendations regarding admissibility, security screening, medical screening and governance.[21] CIC and Canada Border Services Agency are working together to implement the action plan to address areas of concern.

Upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition

Significant reforms to the in-Canada refugee system were introduced in Bill C-31,[22] *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*, which received Royal Assent on June 28, 2012. These reforms included further reforms to the asylum system building on those previously put forward in the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act*, as well as measures to address human smuggling, and the introduction of a mandatory requirement to provide biometric data with a temporary resident visa application. Canadians will benefit from long-needed reforms to the asylum system—reforms that will help deliver faster decisions on refugee claims and deter abuse. At the same time, CIC will now be able to offer more timely protection to those refugees who truly need it.

In 2012, CIC centralized the intake, file creation and assessment of privately sponsored refugee applications in Canada at the new Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg. The creation of this new centralized office will help to alleviate the administrative burden and contribute significantly to helping

expedite refugee processing overseas by reducing inventory backlogs and improving overall efficiency to allow Canada to provide protection in a more timely manner.

CIC is committed to building an immigration system that responds to Canada's labour market needs while upholding its family reunification and humanitarian commitments. Looking forward, in 2013 the Department will continue to work to build a fast, flexible and responsive immigration system.

Canada's Immigration Plan for 2013

The 2013 immigration levels plan reflects the planned number of permanent residents that will support the modernization of the immigration system, strengthen program integrity and improve client service, while setting the foundation for a fast and flexible immigration system in the coming years.

In 2013, the overall planned admission range is 240,000 to 265,000 to continue to respond to today's labour market needs, build tomorrow's work force, reunite families and maintain Canada's commitment to refugee protection. The levels plan is informed by consultations with Canadians and stakeholders, on-going discussions with provinces and territories, objectives of the *Action Plan for Faster Immigration* and the *Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification*, and operational capacities.

Table 1: Immigration Levels Plan 2013

Projected Admissions	Low	High
Federal-Selected Economic Programs, Provincial/Territorial Nominees, Family, Refugees, Humanitarian Entrants, and Permit Holders	206,500	228,300
Quebec-selected Skilled Workers*	31,000	34,000
Quebec-selected Business*	2,500	2,700
TOTAL	**240,000**	**265,000**

* Planned admission ranges may differ from the Government of Quebec's 2013 Levels Plan when it is published. Quebec's ranges will be accommodated within the existing total planning range.

Section 2: Managing Permanent Immigration and Temporary Migration

People from around the world apply to come to Canada as permanent residents. People also apply to come to Canada on a temporary basis to visit, study or work.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) handles large volumes of applications for both flows on CIC's extensive processing network around the world and across the country. Managing this movement of people is always balanced with protecting the health, safety and security of Canadians. To fulfill its role of identifying applicants for permanent or temporary status who could pose security or health risks to Canadians, CIC works in partnership with departments of the Public Safety portfolio (Public Safety Canada,[23] Canada Border Services Agency,[24] the Royal Canadian Mounted Police[25] and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service[26]), as well as the Department of Justice[27] and Health Canada.[28] CIC also works in partnership with other countries to mitigate and protect Canada from international threats.

This section reports on the permanent resident admissions and temporary resident entries processed by CIC in 2011.

Permanent Residents

Permanent residents are persons who have not become Canadian citizens, but have been authorized to live and work in Canada indefinitely, provided that they continue to meet residency requirements and do not lose their status by reason of serious criminality, security, human rights violations, organized crime or misrepresentation. The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA)[29] defines three basic categories of permanent residents: economic, family and protected persons.

In 2011, CIC's global processing network successfully met its processing commitments for permanent residents by admitting 248,748 permanent residents to Canada, which was within the planned admission range of 240,000 to 265,000 in the 2011 immigration levels plan, as set out in the *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2010*.[30]

Admissions of permanent residents in 2011

To meet the levels set out in the immigration levels plan, CIC balanced resource pressures related to high volumes of applications for temporary residence (temporary foreign workers, international students and visitors) and backlog reduction strategies for various immigration programs, while striving to maintain service standards.

Table 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the 2011 admissions by immigration category and allows for a comparison with the 2012 admission ranges. More statistical information on admissions in 2011 can be found in CIC's *Facts and Figures 2011*.[31]

Table 2: New Permanent Residents Admitted in 2011 and 2012 Levels Plan

Immigrant Category	2011 Plan Admission Ranges		Number Admitted in 2011	2012 Plan Admission Ranges	
	Low	High		Low	High
Federal-selected	74,000	80,400	82,251	74,500	79,300
Federal Skilled Workers	47,000	47,400	57,296	55,000	57,000
Federal Business	9,000	10,000	7,681	5,500	6,000
Canadian Experience Class	6,000	7,000	6,027	6,000	7,000
Live-in Caregivers	12,000	16,000	11,247	8,000	9,300
Quebec-selected Skilled Workers	32,800	33,900	31,490	31,000	34,000
Quebec-selected Business	1,800	2,000	3,960	2,500	2,700
Provincial and Territorial Nominees	42,000	45,000	38,420	42,000	45,000
Subtotal: Principal Applicants			64,356		
Subtotal: Spouses and Dependants			91,765		
Total Economic Class	**150,600**	**161,300**	**156,121**	**150,000**	**161,000**
Spouses, Partners and Children	45,500	48,000	42,368	38,000	44,000
Parents and Grandparents	13,000	17,500	14,078	21,800	25,000
Total Family Class	**58,500**	**65,500**	**56,446**	**59,800**	**69,000**
Government-assisted Refugees	7,400	8,000	7,364	7,500	8,000
Privately Sponsored Refugees	3,800	6,000	5,582	4,000	6,000
Protected Persons in Canada (PPiC)	8,200	10,500	10,743	7,000	8,500
Dependants Abroad of PPiC	3,800	4,500	4,183	4,000	4,500
Total Protected Persons	**23,200**	**29,000**	**27,872**	**22,500**	**27,000**
Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds/Public Policy	7,000	9,000	8,218	7,600	7,800
Permit Holders	100	200	88	100	200
Total Other	**7,700**	**9,200**	**8,306**	**7,700**	**8,000**
Category Not Stated	—	—	3	—	—
TOTAL	**240,000**	**265,000**	**248,748**	**240,000**	**265,000**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2011*.

While 2011 had lower overall admissions than that of 2010, which reached 280,691 admissions, it is important to note that a combination of unique factors created a high watermark year for admissions in 2010. In the context of the last five years, the overall 2011 admissions were closer to the average of 250,000 admissions per year. The proportions among the economic, family and protected persons categories is comparable to previous years, with a slightly higher proportion in the economic category. In 2011, 62.8 percent of admissions were economic immigrants (along with their spouse/partner and dependants), 22.7 percent were in the family reunification category, and 14.5 percent were protected persons and other immigrants.

Highlights of Economic Class admissions in 2011

The Economic Class[32] includes skilled workers (federal-selected and Quebec-selected), business immigrants (federal-selected and Quebec-selected), provincial and territorial nominees, the Canadian Experience Class, and live-in caregivers, as well as these applicants' spouses/partners and dependants. In 2011, 156,121 permanent residents in the economic category were admitted to Canada, which is within the planned admission range of 150,600 to 161,300. Also, CIC issued 166,139 visas (for overseas applicants) and authorizations (for applicants already in Canada) for permanent residency in this category in 2011; a portion of these successful applicants for immigration arrived in Canada in 2011 or 2012.

The Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) Program is the Government of Canada's flagship program for selecting foreign skilled workers. Selection is based on a points system, which assesses education, age, work experience, official language proficiency, pre-arranged employment in Canada and adaptability. Of note, there were 57,296 FSW admissions in 2011, which is almost 21 percent above the planned range of 47,000–47,400. With respect to processing times, CIC processed 88 percent of FSW applications received since June 26, 2010, within 12 months, which adhered to the FSW service standard of processing at least 80 percent of those FSW applications in 12 months. CIC continued to manage the intake of new applications through the third set of Ministerial Instructions[33] and reduced the FSW backlog significantly. By the end of 2011, the FSW backlog (applications received before February 27, 2008) was reduced by more than 52 percent to around 302,400 persons, from a high of over 640,000 persons.

CIC continued to review the FSW Program to ensure that it attracts the right skills for Canada's future labour force. In 2011, CIC held five regional stakeholder meetings and conducted on-line public consultations to ask Canadians to consider options for revising the points grid for FSW selection, including a proposed minimum language proficiency in one of Canada's official languages, and increased points for younger applicants and those with higher levels of language proficiency. CIC also launched a new eligibility stream for international students pursuing doctoral studies under the fourth set of Ministerial Instructions.[34]

The Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) provides provinces and territories with a mechanism to respond to their particular economic needs, by allowing them to nominate individuals who will meet specific local labour market demands. In addition, the PNP was designed to spread the benefits of immigration across Canada by promoting immigration to areas that are not traditional immigrant destinations. It is currently the second-largest economic immigration program after the FSW Program, and the number of PNP nominees continues to increase. In 2011, Canada admitted a record number of admissions under the PNP with 38,420 persons settling across Canada. With respect to processing times, there were delays in meeting the 11-month service standard for PNP applications in 2011, due in part to large volumes of older applications concentrated at a few overseas visa offices. CIC is continuing to modernize its application processing and improve efficiency by spreading the work across its global processing network.

CIC conducted an evaluation of the PNP[35] in 2011, which found the program was working well, although there are differences in economic outcomes of immigrants depending on province or territory, and depending on sub-streams within the program. Areas requiring improvement include some aspects of program design, delivery and accountability, such as minimum language standards. CIC is working with provinces and territories to strengthen the PNP to ensure it continues to foster economic growth across the country. Work with provinces and territories to address these issues is under way following Budget 2012.

CIC's Federal Business Immigration Program includes three streams: entrepreneurs, self-employed persons and immigrant investors. This program is intended to attract experienced business people who will contribute to national and regional economic development. The immigrant investor stream requires candidates to make a one-time investment in the Canadian economy in the form of a five-year, zero-interest loan to the Government of Canada, which is allocated to participating provinces and territories to fund economic development and job creation initiatives in their region. In 2011 alone, over $504.4 million was allocated to participating provinces under the Federal Immigrant Investor Program.

On July 1, 2011, the third set of Ministerial Instructions introduced an annual cap of 700 for new applications for the immigrant investor stream to stem the growth of the backlog as program demand continues to outpace capacity to process. The third set of Ministerial Instructions also introduced a temporary pause on the intake of new applications in the entrepreneur stream while CIC continued to review and redesign these streams of the Business Immigration Program. Admissions in the Business Immigration Program continued in 2011, as CIC processed applications already received in order to draw down the backlog.

The self-employed persons stream continues to provide a pathway to permanent residence for individuals who are able to make a significant contribution to the Canadian economy in athletics, arts, cultural activities and farm management.

Highlights of family reunification admissions in 2011

Family reunification is a key objective of IRPA. To facilitate the reunification of families, Canadian citizens and permanent residents may sponsor spouses or partners, dependent children, parents, grandparents and other close relatives to become permanent residents as Family Class immigrants.[36] Sponsors must undertake to provide for the basic requirements of the sponsored person and his or her family members for a specified period of time. Sponsors of parents and grandparents and some other relatives must also meet a minimum income test.

In 2011, 56,446 permanent residents in the Family Class were admitted to Canada, which is slightly below the planned admission range of 58,500 to 65,500. CIC also issued 59,670 visas and authorizations for permanent residency in the Family Class; some of these successful applicants for immigration arrived in Canada in 2011, and some will arrive in 2012.

In 2011, CIC admitted 42,368 spouses, partners and children as permanent residents, which is a little below the planned admission range of 45,500 to 48,000. Because this immigration stream is a 'non-discretionary' stream, where CIC processes applications as they are received, the lower volume of admissions is directly attributable to a lower than expected volume of applications received. Processing times were slightly below the service standard of processing at least 80 percent of these applications in 12 months; CIC processed 72 percent of spouses, partners and children applications in 12 months.

Factors that affected processing included the transition of CIC's worldwide and in-Canada processing network to the Global Case Management System, the new application processing platform for all CIC offices. In addition, CIC launched the Action Plan for Faster Family Reunification[37] at the end of 2011 to reduce the backlog for the parents and grandparents category over the coming years. Although this temporarily increased the workload in the parents and grandparents category, the ultimate goal of the action plan aims to lessen the accumulation of inventories in this category through program redesign.

A regulatory change relating to family sponsorship[38] came into force at the end of 2011. Sponsors convicted of crimes that resulted in bodily harm against members of their family, or convicted of other particularly violent offences, are generally not allowed to sponsor any Family Class member to come to Canada for five years following the completion of their sentence. Previously, a sponsorship application would not have been approved if the sponsor had been convicted of a crime resulting in bodily harm against a narrower list of family members or relatives. The regulatory change expanded the list of relatives who would be considered under the family violence bar of sponsorship, and added provisions extending the bar to apply to those convicted of other violent offences.

Highlights of protected persons admissions in 2011

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[39] there were about 10.5 million refugees in the world at the beginning of 2011, many of whom have been living in exile for decades. By offering protection to refugees and persons in need of protection,[40] and through active participation in international forums on refugee protection, CIC plays a significant role in upholding Canada's international obligations and humanitarian tradition.

There are three main categories of protected persons: government-assisted refugees, privately sponsored refugees and persons who received protected person status in Canada as a result of a positive asylum claim.[41]

Despite CIC visa offices being affected by instability and heightened security concerns in some parts of Africa, 12,946 refugees were resettled in Canada in 2011. This is within the combined 2011 planned admission ranges for government-assisted refugees and privately sponsored refugees of 11,200 to 14,000. This was the third year in a row that Canada admitted over 12,000 refugees, and CIC continued its commitments since 2010 under the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act*[42] to increase the annual number of refugees resettled from abroad to as many as 14,500 refugees by 2013.

In particular, in 2011, Canada resettled 1,875 Bhutanese refugees and 4,545 Iraqi refugees in support of Canada's commitment to resettle 5,000 Bhutanese out of Nepal between 2008 and 2012, and 20,000 Iraqis between 2009 and 2013.

The uprisings in the Middle East that began in December 2010 have had a significant impact on the Department's operations both in Canada and internationally beginning in 2011. CIC personnel have been greatly affected by the upheavals, as visa operations in Tripoli, Tunis and Cairo were temporarily suspended and several officers evacuated at the height of the turmoil as the security situation deteriorated. CIC officers were called upon to assist with consular and Canadian government evacuation operations for Canadian citizens (including non-Canadian spouses and children). The most significant impact has been the forced closure of the Embassy of Canada in Damascus, Syria, on January 31, 2012, due to security concerns. The closure of Damascus, responsible for the largest overseas refugee program and the regional headquarters for immigration services, particularly challenged CIC's ability to deliver its services in the

Middle East in 2012 and beyond. This closure resulted in the expansion of CIC's other visa offices in the region and the redistribution of workload and responsibilities.

Highlights of admissions under humanitarian and compassionate grounds and public policy in 2011

IRPA gives CIC's Minister the authority to consider the circumstances of and grant permanent resident status to individuals and their families who would not otherwise qualify in any immigration program. These are discretionary provisions for humanitarian and compassionate considerations or for public policy reasons, to provide the flexibility to approve deserving cases not anticipated in the legislation.

In 2011, a total of 8,218 people were admitted into Canada based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or for public policy reasons, which is within the planned admission range of 7,000 to 9,000.

To reduce the backlog of applications under consideration for humanitarian and compassionate grounds, CIC created backlog reduction offices in spring 2011 as part of the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act* to manage these applications across the entire network of immigration offices in Canada and improve consistency in processing times.

Under public policy, the Minister for CIC has adopted special measures since 2009 to facilitate immigration to Canada for certain Afghan nationals who provided direct support to the Canadian mission in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. In 2011, 198 persons were resettled to Canada under these measures, over and above those resettled under the Government-Assisted Refugee and Privately Sponsored Refugee Programs. These individuals received resettlement services similar to what is currently offered to government-assisted refugees.

Admissions of permanent residents by knowledge of official language in 2011

Of the permanent residents admitted in 2011, 75.2 percent self-identified as having knowledge of English, French or both official languages, which is a modest increase from 73.4 percent in 2010.

For economic immigrant principal applicants, 91 percent self-identified as having knowledge of at least one of the official languages in 2011, which is comparable to 90.9 percent in 2010.

Table 3: Knowledge of Official Languages among Permanent Residents, 2011

Immigrant Class	English	French	Both	Neither	Total
Family Class	35,215	4,207	2,754	14,270	56,446
Economic Immigrants—Principal Applicants	40,685	3,570	14,334	5,767	64,356
Economic Immigrants—Spouses and Dependants	46,883	5,238	7,121	32,523	91,765
Protected Persons	14,955	2,506	1,495	8,916	27,872
Other Immigrants	6,818	902	268	318	8,306
Category Not Stated	2	1	0	0	3
Total	**144,558**	**16,424**	**25,972**	**61,794**	**248,748**
Percentage	**58.1%**	**6.6%**	**10.4%**	**24.8%**	**100.0%**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2011.*

Admissions of permanent residents by top 10 source country in 2011

Canada's immigration program is based on non-discriminatory principles, where foreign nationals are assessed without regard to race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or gender. Canada receives its immigrant population from over 200 countries of origin.

As indicated in Table 4, 54.0 percent of new permanent residents admitted in 2011 came from the top 10 source countries, which is comparable to last year, where 52.7 percent of new permanent residents came from the top 10 source countries. The top 10 countries in 2011 are similar to 2010, with the Philippines, People's Republic of China and India remaining as the top three source countries in both years.

Table 4: Permanent Residents Admitted in 2011, by Top 10 Source Countries

Rank	Country	Number	Percentage
1	Philippines	34,991	14.1%
2	People's Republic of China	28,696	11.5%
3	India	24,965	10.0%
4	United States of America	8,829	3.5%
5	Iran	6,840	2.7%
6	United Kingdom and Colonies	6,550	2.6%
7	Haiti	6,208	2.5%
8	Pakistan	6,073	2.4%
9	France	5,867	2.4%
10	United Arab Emirates	5,223	2.1%
Total Top 10		134,242	54.0%
All Other Source Countries		114,506	46.0%
TOTAL		**248,748**	**100%**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2011.*

Temporary Residents

In addition to selecting permanent residents, CIC also processes applications for the temporary entry of:

- foreign workers, important to Canada's economic growth;
- international students, attracted by the quality and diversity of Canada's educational system; and
- visitors, who come to Canada for personal or business travel.

These temporary residents contribute to Canada's economic development by filling gaps in the labour market, enhancing trade, purchasing goods and services, and increasing cultural and people-to-people links.

CIC's global processing network handles both permanent and temporary resident applications. While CIC plans admission ranges for permanent residents, temporary applications are processed according to demand and application in-flows are not capped.

As shown in Table 5, CIC processed applications for and admitted almost 290,000 new temporary foreign workers and international students in 2011, which is 5.4 percent higher than in 2010, with increases in both temporary foreign workers and international students.

Table 5: Number of Temporary Foreign Workers and Foreign Students Admitted in 2011

Category	Number Admitted in 2010	Number Admitted in 2011
Temporary Foreign Workers	179,179	190,842
International Students	96,248	98,383
Total	**274,427**	**289,225**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2011.*

Temporary foreign workers

CIC facilitates the temporary entry of foreign workers needed to address labour market shortages and to provide other economic opportunities for Canadians, such as job creation and the transfer of new skills and knowledge. Temporary foreign workers[43] help meet acute and short-term needs in the labour market that could not easily be filled by the domestic labour force.

In response to labour market demand, and further to the Government of Canada's commitment to making improvements to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to respond to employer needs, Canada welcomed 190,842 temporary foreign workers in 2011. This is a sizable increase of 6.5 percent from 2010 (179,179), consistent with the improvements in the economy after the recent recession.

In April 2011, CIC adopted new regulations to protect temporary foreign workers. There are three major elements: a more rigorous assessment of the genuineness of the job offer; a two-year period of ineligibility for hiring temporary foreign workers for employers who fail to meet their commitments with respect to wages, working conditions and occupation; and a four-year limit on the length of time some temporary foreign workers may work in Canada before returning home. These changes are the most significant improvements to the program in many years.

In October 2011, CIC and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada[44] held consultations on the hiring of temporary foreign workers to make sure that the program is more responsive to labour market needs.

The Live-in Caregiver Program allows Canadian families to hire temporary workers from abroad to provide live-in home care to a child, an elderly person or an adult with disabilities when there is a demonstrated shortage of workers already in Canada who are able to fill available positions. Caregivers first come to Canada on a temporary basis, and they become eligible to apply for permanent residence in Canada after working for two years as a live-in caregiver. CIC processed 83 percent of temporary resident work permit applications for live-in caregivers within the service standard of one year and four months.

In December 2011, CIC made an administrative change to enable temporary resident live-in caregivers to obtain open work permits[45] sooner, after fulfilling the two-year work requirement and on submission of their application for permanent residence. Open work permits allow flexibility in employment and supports the caregivers' establishment in Canada as they wait for the processing of their permanent residence application. Before this change, live-in caregivers were eligible for their open work permit only after receiving initial approval of their application for permanent residence.

International students

International students[46] bring with them new ideas and cultures that enrich the learning environment within Canadian educational institutions. International students who enter Canada on temporary resident visas are also an important source of easily integrated immigrants after several years in Canadian schools since they are well prepared for the Canadian labour market. The number of foreign students entering Canada in 2011 was 98,383, a modest rise of 3.3 percent from the previous year's total of 95,248.

In collaboration with its partners, CIC continued to successfully deliver key initiatives to help Canada maintain its competitive edge in attracting and retaining international students. Important vehicles for accomplishing this include the off-campus work permit, which allows certain international students to seek employment off campus, and the post-graduation work permit, which allows graduates from participating post-secondary institutions to gain valuable Canadian experience for up to three years. In 2011, CIC issued 28,479 off-campus permits and extensions, and 21,275 post-graduation permits and extensions, which are increases from 2010, demonstrating the success of these permits for international students. With respect to processing times, CIC processed all applications for off-campus work permits in four months, which exceeded the service standard of 80 percent of applications in four months. For new study permits applications from overseas, CIC processed 90 percent of applications in two months, which exceeded the service standard of 80 percent of applications in two months. For extensions to study permits submitted from within Canada, CIC processed 97 percent of applications in four months, which exceeded the service standard of 80 percent of applications in four months.

Tourists and business visitors

Tourists contribute to the economy by creating a demand for services in the hospitality sector, and business visitors[47] allow Canadian businesses to benefit from their specialized expertise and international links. Under IRPA, all foreign nationals wishing to visit Canada must have a temporary resident visa before arriving in Canada unless they are from countries specifically exempted in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*, or benefit from certain other limited exceptions, for example, being accredited diplomats in Canada.

As of October 1, 2012, citizens from 152 countries and territories require temporary resident visas to visit Canada.[48] In 2011, CIC processed applications (new and extensions) from over one million persons seeking temporary resident visas as tourists and business visitors to Canada. Moreover, CIC was successful in promoting the use of the multiple entry visas, which are valid for up to 10 years and thus allow applicants from visa-required countries to travel to Canada more frequently and on their own schedules. The service standard for visitor visas outside Canada is two weeks, and in 2011, CIC processed 77 percent within this standard.

Temporary resident permits

Subsection 24(1) of IRPA authorizes designated officers of CIC and the Canada Border Services Agency to issue temporary resident permits (TRPs) to foreign nationals who they believe are inadmissible or who do not meet the requirements of the Act. Foreign nationals are considered inadmissible—that is, barred from entering or remaining in Canada—on grounds such as national security, violation of human rights, criminality, organized crime, health, financial reasons, and misrepresentation. These permits are issued when there are justified reasons to admit an otherwise inadmissible individual into Canada. In exercising their discretion, designated officers must take into consideration any instructions issued by the Minister under subsection 24(3) of the Act, which stipulates that officers shall act in accordance with any instructions that the Minister may make and weigh the risk to Canada against the reason(s) for permitting

temporary residence. TRPs are issued for a limited period of time and are subject to cancellation at any time. They provide flexibility to address exceptional circumstances and can be used to further Canada's national and international objectives.

CIC continues to make an important contribution to the Government of Canada's multi-faceted efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Since May 2006, immigration officers have been authorized to issue TRPs to foreign nationals who may be victims of this crime, so that they have a period of time to remain in Canada and consider their options. In 2011, 53 TRPs were issued to 48 victims of trafficking. This figure includes subsequent permits issued to the same victim to maintain legal status in Canada.

In 2011, a total of 53 visas were issued under the public policy authority provided in IRPA s. 25.2(1) that exempts certain foreign nationals from the inadmissibility provisions to facilitate their temporary entry. This public policy has been in place since September 2010 to advance Canada's national interests while continuing to ensure the safety of Canadians.

Table 6 indicates the number of TRPs issued in 2011, categorized according to grounds of inadmissibility under the IRPA. In 2011, 11,526 permits were issued, with 844 representing permits issued to foreign nationals who continued to maintain their status as permit holders from within Canada. Of the total, 82 TRPs were issued under instruction of the Minister. The authority to issue TRPs is shared between designated CIC officials and Canada Border Services Agency officers working at ports of entry.

Table 6: Temporary Resident Permits Issued from January 1 to December 31, 2011

Description of Inadmissibility	Provision under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Number of Permits in 2011
Security (espionage, subversion, terrorism)	34(1)*(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)* and *(f)*	37
Human or International Rights Violations	35(1)*(a), (b)* and *(c)*	14
Serious Criminality (convicted of an offence punishable by a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years)	36(1)*(a), (b)* and *(c)*	899
Criminality (convicted of a criminal act or of an offence prosecuted either summarily or by way of indictment)	36(2)*(a), (b), (c)* and *(d)*	6,227
Organized Criminality	37(1)*(a)* or *(b)*	7
Health Grounds (danger to public health or public safety, excessive burden)	38(1)*(a), (b)* and *(c)*	97
Financial Reasons (unwilling or unable to support themselves or their dependants)	39	33
Misrepresentation	40(1)*(a), (b), (c)* and *(d)*	11
Non-compliance with Act or Regulations (e.g., no passport, no visa, work/study without permit, medical/criminal check to be completed in Canada, not examined on entry)	41*(a)* and *(b)*	3,932
Inadmissible Family Member	42*(a)* and *(b)*	161
No Return Without Prescribed Authorization	52(1)	108
TOTAL		**11,526**

Source: Field Operations Support System, as of January 2, 2012.

Section 3: Federal–Provincial/Territorial Partnerships

Jurisdiction over immigration is a joint responsibility under section 95 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and effective collaboration between the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories is essential to the successful management of the immigration program. Provincial and territorial governments are primary partners of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), and the shared goal is to make immigration programs responsive to the unique economic, social and labour market needs of each province and territory. Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Department of Citizenship and Immigration Act*, the Minister for CIC has the authority, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to sign agreements with the provinces and territories to facilitate the coordination and implementation of immigration policies and programs. Table 7 provides a list of the key bilateral agreements[19] currently in force, with their signing and expiry dates.

Framework agreements with eight provinces and one territory highlight immigration as a key area for bilateral collaboration and formalize how governments work together on this issue. Agreements for a Provincial Nominee Program are also in place with 11 jurisdictions (Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and all provinces except Quebec), either as an annex to a framework agreement or as a stand-alone agreement.

Under a Provincial Nominee Program, provinces and territories have the authority to nominate individuals as permanent residents to address specific labour market and economic development needs. Under the *Canada–Quebec Accord*, Quebec has full responsibility over the selection of immigrants (except Family Class and in-Canada refugee claimants), as well as the sole responsibility for delivering integration services. The federal government is responsible for establishing eligibility criteria for settlement programs in the other provinces and territories, reuniting families, determining refugee claims within Canada, defining immigration categories, setting national immigration levels, and establishing admission requirements.

Table 7: Federal–Provincial/Territorial Agreements Currently in Force

Agreement	Date Signed	Expiry Date
Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Provincial Nominees	November 22, 2006 (Original signed in September 1999)	Indefinite
Agreement for Canada–Prince Edward Island Co-operation on Immigration	June 13, 2008 (Original signed in March 2001)	Indefinite
Agreement for Canada–Nova Scotia Co-operation on Immigration	September 19, 2007	Indefinite
Canada–New Brunswick Agreement on Provincial Nominees	January 28, 2005 Amended: March 29, 2005 (Original signed in February 1999)	Indefinite

Agreement	Date Signed	Expiry Date
Canada–Quebec Accord Relating to Immigration and Temporary Admission of Aliens	February 5, 1991	Indefinite
Canada–Ontario Immigration Agreement	November 21, 2005	Expired March 31, 2011 (Provincial Nominee Program authority extended to May 31, 2015; Temporary Foreign Worker Annex continues indefinitely)
Canada–Manitoba Immigration Agreement	June 6, 2003 (Original signed in October 1996)	Indefinite
Canada–Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement	May 7, 2005 (Original signed in March 1998)	Indefinite
Agreement for Canada–Alberta Cooperation on Immigration	May 11, 2007	Indefinite
Canada–British Columbia Immigration Agreement	April 9, 2010 (Original signed in May 1998)	April 8, 2015
Agreement for Canada–Yukon Co-operation on Immigration	February 12, 2008 (Original signed in April 2001)	Indefinite
Canada–Northwest Territories Agreement on Provincial Nominees	August 5, 2009	August 10, 2013

Table 8: Permanent Residents Admitted in 2011, by Destination and Immigration Category

Category	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Not Stated	Total
ECONOMIC CLASS															
Skilled Workers	104	31	500	180	31,490	36,943	618	524	8,333	10,031	12	11	3	6	88,786
Business Immigrants	4	1	60	12	3,960	3,301	41	8	166	4,088	0	0	0	0	11,641
Provincial and Territorial Nominees	274	1,565	779	1,230	58	1,708	12,342	6,959	8,998	4,306	189	12	0	0	38,420
Live-in Caregivers	2	2	28	10	564	6,029	116	118	1,895	2,458	4	15	4	2	11,247
Canadian Experience Class	8	2	44	42	30	3,422	34	49	1,367	1,021	2	5	1	0	6,027
Total Economic Class (including dependants)	**392**	**1,601**	**1,411**	**1,474**	**36,102**	**51,403**	**13,151**	**7,658**	**20,759**	**21,904**	**207**	**43**	**8**	**8**	**156,121**
FAMILY CLASS															
Spouses, Partners, Children and Others	115	43	382	271	7,631	19,592	1,128	625	5,252	7,258	21	34	13	3	42,368
Parents and Grandparents	12	3	50	12	1,416	7,779	272	64	1,592	2,869	4	2	2	1	14,078
Total Family Class	**127**	**46**	**432**	**283**	**9,047**	**27,371**	**1,400**	**689**	**6,844**	**10,127**	**25**	**36**	**15**	**4**	**56,446**

Category	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Not Stated	Total
PROTECTED PERSONS															
Government-assisted Refugees	142	78	194	158	1,647	2,617	444	355	1,056	672	0	0	0	1	7,364
Privately Sponsored Refugees	1	1	16	13	398	2,969	795	153	740	496	0	0	0	0	5,582
Protected Persons In-Canada	1	0	8	6	2,135	7,432	44	33	586	494	0	4	0	0	10,743
Dependants Abroad	2	0	7	2	840	2,902	20	6	256	148	0	0	0	0	4,183
Total Protected Persons	**146**	**79**	**225**	**179**	**5,020**	**15,920**	**1,303**	**547**	**2,638**	**1,810**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**27,872**
OTHER															
Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds/Public Policy	2	0	16	2	560	1,755	10	12	169	158	3	0	0	0	2,687
Other*	15	5	54	30	1,001	2,955	93	49	548	769	2	2	1	1	5,525
Total Other	**17**	**5**	**70**	**32**	**1,577**	**4,761**	**108**	**61**	**722**	**944**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**8,306**
Category Not Stated	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	**682**	**1,731**	**2,138**	**1,968**	**51,746**	**99,458**	**15,962**	**8,955**	**30,963**	**34,785**	**237**	**85**	**24**	**14**	**248,748**
PERCENTAGE	**0.3%**	**0.7%**	**0.9%**	**0.8%**	**20.8%**	**40.0%**	**6.4%**	**3.6%**	**12.4%**	**14.0%**	**0.1%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2011.*

* Other includes post-determination refugee claimants, deferred removal orders and temporary resident permit holders.

Section 4:
Integration of Newcomers and Canadian Citizenship

Immigration is fundamental to the development of Canada's economy, society and culture, and Canada strives to be a world leader in maximizing its benefits. To create a stronger nation benefiting both newcomers and Canadians, Canada is one of the few countries with a managed immigration program directed toward newcomers ultimately becoming full citizens. The successful settlement and integration of new immigrants to Canada is an important objective of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Settlement

Settlement refers to the initial and short-term transitional issues faced by newcomers, while integration is an ongoing process of mutual accommodation between an individual and society. The key to maximizing the benefits of immigration is ensuring that newcomers have the information, tools and opportunities to realize their potential and become fully engaged in all aspects of Canadian society. Under the Settlement Program, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) assists immigrants and refugees with overcoming challenges specific to the newcomer experience (e.g., lack of official language skills and limited knowledge of Canada) so that they can participate in the social, cultural, civic and economic life of Canada. Services include information and orientation, language training, initiatives to facilitate community connections and labour market participation, and support services to provide access to CIC settlement programming.

Immigration is an area of shared jurisdiction between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. In provinces and territories outside Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, CIC manages settlement services, with different forms of co-management and partnerships. Through agreements with CIC, the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec have been responsible for the design, delivery and management of settlement services in their respective jurisdictions, supported by federal funding. For all jurisdictions outside of Quebec, funding for settlement services is allocated based on the proportion of immigrants in each jurisdiction.

Following the 2012 Budget, CIC advised British Columbia and Manitoba that to better support the federal responsibility for nation building, the federal government would be resuming management of CIC-funded settlement services in those provinces within the next two years. This will allow CIC to provide consistent, effective and efficient settlement services across the country (outside of Quebec), and strengthen its federal leadership for ensuring comparable results for newcomers nationwide.

In 2011–2012, despite an 8-percent reduction in federal funding for the Settlement Program, CIC increased the number of clients served in Canada (outside Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia) and overseas by 3-percent (from approximately 207,000 in 2010–2011 to 213,300).

CIC continues to provide settlement services while potential immigrants are still overseas in an effort to help them achieve better outcomes once they arrive in Canada. In 2011–2012, the number of clients served overseas increased by 68 percent. A recent evaluation of the three existing overseas orientation initiatives reviewed the objectives, costs and offerings of each initiative, and assessed levels of satisfaction and degree of difficulty faced by newcomers with certain barriers. A useful element of this evaluation is that it included a control group of newcomers to Canada who did not participate in overseas

orientation sessions, for comparison purposes. The evaluation findings will help direct the ongoing development of the overseas strategy.

Together with provinces and territories, the Department continued collaborative efforts on the Joint Federal–Provincial/Territorial Vision Action Plan for Immigration that includes a work plan to improve coordination and streamlining of settlement service delivery as well as a pan-Canadian framework for settlement outcomes. The purpose of the framework is to provide a cohesive, national approach for defining and measuring settlement outcomes and to establish the evidence base for better accountability and policy decisions. As part of this work, a survey of 20,000 newcomers across Canada was developed with provinces and territories to yield information on how well newcomers are faring across the country as well as to identify areas that have the greatest impact on overall settlement outcomes.

In addition, CIC adopted a national plans and priorities strategy for the Settlement Program. This strategy sets the stage for prioritizing settlement programming and maximizing its impact on newcomer outcomes. It also supports funding to interventions that provide direct services to eligible clients and interventions that increase the uptake by newcomers of needs-based programming earlier in their settlement experience. Other activities under the strategy will reduce duplication among services and jurisdictions through improved coordination and collaboration.

The Department is undertaking a grants and contributions modernization initiative to improve program integrity, and increase efficiency of program delivery. This includes delivery of the settlement, resettlement and multiculturalism programs. The initiative is focusing on improving program integrity through better managing risk and assessing program performance. Risk management tools have been developed and implemented, streamlining processes while reducing the burden on staff and the recipient community in line with the Report of the independent Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions recommendations.

In support of this modernization initiative, the Department has introduced a national call for proposals process and is making efforts to streamline payment processing. The Department is also harmonizing its settlement and multiculturalism programs. Common tools, training and generic job descriptions will allow greater integration and provide the Department with flexibility in managing its workload. At the same time, the Department is streamlining its approval processes to reduce administrative backlogs.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken to improve language training services. The Department completed field testing of the Portfolio-Based Language Assessment, which measures student progress within CIC-funded language training programming. Its implementation is ongoing as a standard feature in classes across the country. CIC also completed two versions of a national test of language achievement, which will inform strategies to ensure the test is reliable and financially sustainable. An on-line national repository of language-teaching tools and resources was launched to facilitate the sharing of resources among English and French second-language teachers, foster the development of teacher communities, and provide opportunities for professional development. The Department also completed the renewal of the Canadian Language Benchmarks and the Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens, Canada's national standards for rating the English and French language proficiency of adult immigrants that will help support the creation of a new national test of language achievement.

Another accomplishment this year is the continuing expansion of the local partnerships model. The model supports locally based collaboration among multiple stakeholders to address settlement issues of newcomers in their respective jurisdictions via coordinated strategies. Throughout the year, CIC engaged

various provincial representatives and community stakeholders to generate interest in the model. As a result, adaptations of the partnership model are being used beyond Ontario, where it originated.

Further to the government's response to the *Report on Best Practices in Settlement Services*, CIC completed the development of a best practices website to share evidence-based practices with the settlement sector and the public.[50]

The Department maintained efforts to pursue its commitment to foster the vitality and development of francophone minority communities, including promotion and recruitment abroad. For example, CIC continued support of 13 francophone immigration networks within francophone minority communities throughout the country in order to solidify efforts to economically, socially and culturally integrate French-speaking immigrants. Key interventions for employment-related services delivered to francophone immigrants included work placements, employment-related mentorships and networking opportunities, referral services, services meant to facilitate credential recognition, and employment counselling. The 2011 edition of the Destination Canada Job Fair[51] involved 10 Canadian provinces and territories and approximately 2,700 participants. In addition to this main international event, 83 information events (including sessions with the participation of New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador) in France, Belgium and Switzerland attracted approximately 4,000 participants.

In 2011–2012, CIC established terms of reference and a methodology for a meta-evaluation of the Settlement Program. This special study will pull together and update the extensive existing knowledge related to the implementation and performance of CIC settlement services under the Settlement Program. A synthesis of key findings from previous evaluations will form the basis of this study. It will also assess the "evaluability" of the program and propose next steps and timing for future evaluation work.

CIC continued to support the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications,[52] which is led federally by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Following the successful development of action plans by the initial eight target regulated occupations in 2010 to address barriers in foreign credential recognition, the next six target occupations (i.e., dentists, engineering technicians, licensed practical nurses, medical radiation technologists, physicians and teachers) committed to creating action plans by December 2012.

In 2011–2012, the Federal Internship for Newcomers Program,[53] which provides newcomers with Canadian work experience in the federal public service, expanded from Ottawa to Toronto and Vancouver/Victoria, as well as to 20 participating departments and agencies where 63 interns were successfully placed. The program is delivered in partnership with immigrant-serving organizations and in 2011–2012, 13 new partnerships were developed.

A new micro-loans pilot initiative[54] led by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is intended to help internationally trained individuals cover some of the costs associated with the foreign credential recognition process. In support, CIC established a contribution agreement with the Immigrant Access Fund[55] to develop an action plan to expand its micro-loans program, as well as to develop a mechanism to track the outcomes of the loan program participants.

In 2011–2012, the International Qualifications Network[56] website was launched, providing a virtual space for stakeholders in the area of foreign credential recognition to share innovative practices. In 2011–2012, almost 300 members joined and 146 initiatives were posted on the website.

Canadian Citizenship

The acquisition of citizenship is a significant step in the integration of newcomers. Granting citizenship to eligible applicants allows newcomers to acquire the full range of rights of citizenship and encourages them to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship. The acquisition of citizenship also helps newcomers secure a stronger sense of belonging to Canada and share a common bond as part of the Canadian family. Supporting citizenship involves providing an environment where civic participation and the expression of identity are fostered through tools for promoting and celebrating citizenship, and through enhancing the meaning of Canadian citizenship.

The purpose of the Citizenship Program is to administer citizenship legislation and promote the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. In 2011, CIC continued to focus on improving program integrity and strengthening the value of Canadian citizenship by strengthening the process of applying for citizenship, including ensuring adequate language proficiency of newcomers. The Department also implemented measures to increase efficiency and prioritized addressing citizenship fraud. In addition, CIC continued to promote civic participation and the value of citizenship to both newcomers and long-standing Canadians, with a focus on Canadian values, history, symbols and institutions, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Citizenship Program continued various promotional activities such as Celebrate Citizenship Week and Canada's citizenship and reaffirmation ceremonies in communities. In 2011, the Department held 2,204 citizenship ceremonies, of which 443 were enhanced ceremonies, which are often undertaken in partnership with external organizations in the community.

In 2011, CIC processed 196,727 applications for citizenship, resulting in 181,184 individuals becoming Canadian citizens. Application intake continues to exceed this number with an estimated 223,040 application intake in 2011. CIC also issued 66,463 citizenship certificates (proofs of citizenship) to existing citizens in 2011.

CIC continues to explore measures to determine where modernization efforts should be focused in support of greater operational efficiency and effectiveness in the Citizenship Program. For example, under the Citizenship Modernization initiative, CIC reinforced roles and responsibilities of officers in maintaining program integrity by implementing mandatory system checks at strategic points in the citizenship grant application process to identify applicants who may not meet the residence obligation. A National Citizenship Fraud Conference brought together approximately 50 citizenship officials from across Canada, along with participants from the Canada Border Services Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Passport Canada. A number of anti-fraud tools developed to assist citizenship officials in the detection of fraud, as well as newly implemented procedures were presented and discussed. Work also took place to develop a new citizenship certificate along with an electronic validation portal, allowing CIC to move to an easier to produce certificate while ensuring partners can validate citizenship in a highly secure manner. The new certificate and portal were launched in February 2012.

In October 2011, CIC consulted on a proposal to amend the citizenship regulations to require citizenship applicants to provide objective evidence of their language ability at the time of application, through the publication in the *Canada Gazette* of a Notice of Intent. As a result, the proposed regulations were pre-published in the *Canada Gazette* in April 2012 and final publication and the coming into force of the regulations are expected in fall 2012. This would enhance the integrity of the Citizenship Program by

making language assessment more objective, while improving language outcomes for newcomers and improving processing. This could also improve the employability and earnings of permanent residents by providing an incentive to enhance their language skills before applying for citizenship; Canadian employers benefit as well by an increased pool of available employees with good language proficiency. Moreover, the legislative framework for the *Citizenship Act* has not seen a comprehensive update in more than 30 years. Although work is ongoing to address operational challenges, CIC undertook a review of the legislation in 2011 with a view to possible improvements in areas such as access, program integrity and fraud, and streamlining processing.

Multiculturalism

The majority of Canadians support immigration and their support is underpinned by a belief in immigration as an economic benefit and pride in Canadian multiculturalism. The Multiculturalism Program supports the government's effort to build an integrated, socially cohesive society. Its objectives emphasize fostering intercultural and interfaith understanding, civic memory and pride, respect for core democratic values grounded in history, and equal opportunity for all Canadians.

Inter-Action, a component of the multiculturalism grants and contributions launched in June 2010 and has two streams: projects and events. The projects stream focuses on long-term, multi-year projects that support integration while the events stream provides grants to small community-based events that promote intercultural understanding between various communities. Departmental progress on results achieved in multiculturalism is reported in the *Annual Report on the Operation of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act*.[57]

The projects stream of Inter-Action provides funding for long-term, multi-year activities that support building an integrated, socially cohesive society. In 2011–2012, projects stream funding of $7.7 million was approved. The events stream provides funding for community events that foster intercultural understanding, civic memory and pride, and respect for core democratic values. In 2011–2012, funding of $1.8 million was approved for the events stream.

Section 5: Gender-based Analysis of the Impact of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*

Gender-based analysis (GBA) is an evidence-based assessment of the impact policies, programs, legislation and services have on diverse groups of women, men, girls and boys. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is required by the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* to report on gender impacts of the Act. CIC's new Policy on Gender-based Analysis was launched in 2011 and applies across all of CIC's business lines, from policy development to program implementation. The new policy reflects the Department's continuing commitment to incorporating gender and diversity considerations throughout its mandate, including citizenship and multiculturalism. The policy builds on CIC's previous GBA Strategic Framework by positioning GBA as an analytical tool that recognizes that equal opportunity does not necessarily mean equal results. Applying GBA involves the consideration of the intersections of gender and other diversity factors, including ethnicity, religion, nationality, class, age and sexual orientation.

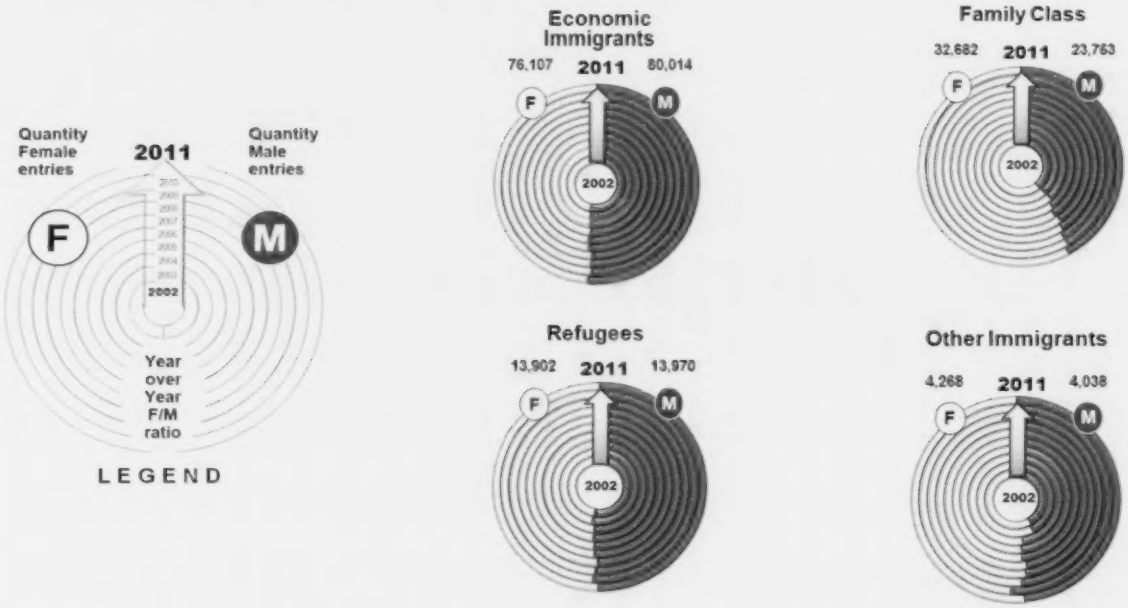
CIC has continued to work with its federal government partners in areas relevant to GBA. Specifically, CIC supported efforts by Status of Women Canada to implement GBA as a sustainable practice across departments and agencies. For example, the Action Plan on Gender-based Analysis[58] was developed in response to the 2009 report on GBA from the Office of the Auditor General. As one of several departments in 2011, CIC contributed to the action plan to provide a GBA self-assessment on the implementation of GBA frameworks. As well, CIC continued to participate along with 14 other federal departments and agencies in the Family Violence Initiative led by the Public Health Agency of Canada. This is a long-term commitment of the Government of Canada to collaborate with provinces and territories, as well as research and community partners, to address violence within relationships of kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust.

CIC's operational data-gathering activities continue to incorporate gender as a standard element of analysis of permanent and temporary resident arrivals. The following section describes a number of key trends in permanent and temporary resident arrivals. Among the key findings over the period of analysis is a narrowing of the gender gap in economic immigration with, for example, a growing share of women arriving as principal applicants in higher professional skilled categories and a shrinking proportion of women arriving within the Family Class stream. This suggests that changes to the permanent resident category are helping to reduce some gender disparities.

Gender-based Analysis of Permanent Resident and Temporary Resident Arrivals

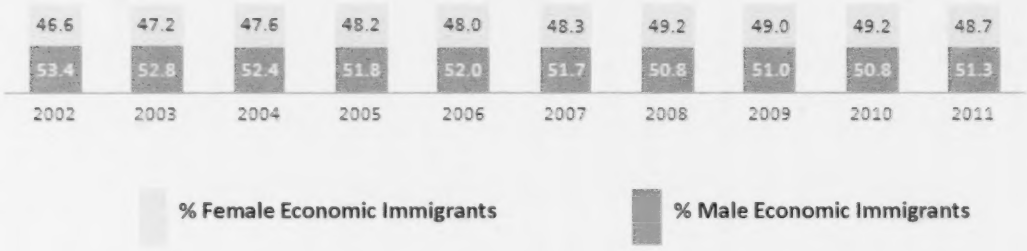
In 2011, Canada admitted 248,748 permanent residents. The number of women and men admitted as permanent residents (both as principal applicants, and spouses and dependants) has remained relatively stable over the past decade. On average, between 2002 and 2011 women accounted for 51.0 percent and men accounted for 49.0 percent of permanent residents.

Chart 1: Trends in Proportion of Female and Male Permanent Residents in Economic, Family Class, Refugee, and Other Immigrant Streams, 2002 to 2011



Men continued to make up the larger proportion of total economic immigrants in 2011–156,121 entrants, which includes principal applicants, as well as spouses and dependants. The gap between male and female economic immigrants, however, narrowed over the past 10 years (Chart 2). The largest gap occurred in 2002 when 53.4 percent of economic immigrants were men and 45.6 percent women. This gap gradually narrowed, with a more balanced distribution in 2010 of 50.8 percent men and 49.2 percent women. However, in 2011, the gap increased slightly (51.3 percent men and 48.7 percent women).

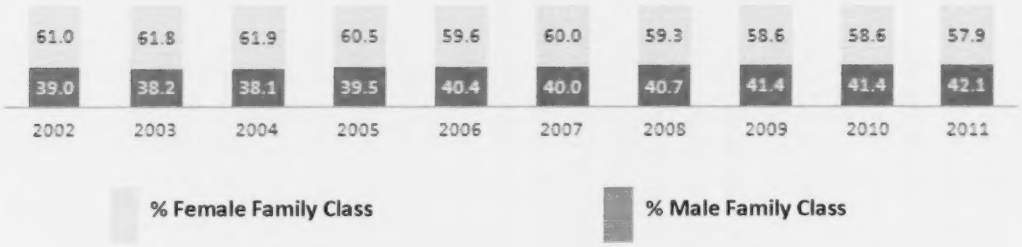
Chart 2: Percentage of Female and Male Economic Immigrants, 2002 to 2011



There was little change in the past year in the top 10 countries of origin for both male and female principal applicants. Since 2007 there has been a steady increase in the proportion of both male and female entrants from the Philippines, although there was a dip in the last year in entries of women from the Philippines. China, India, Iran and France rounded out the top five source countries for both male and female economic immigrants in 2011.

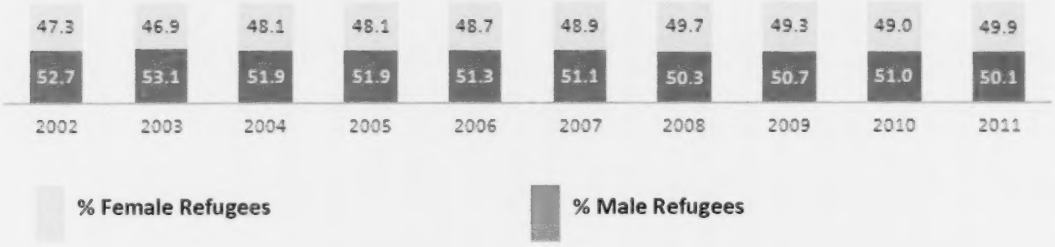
For the 2002–2011 period, women made up the larger proportion of the Family Class category. However, there has been a relatively steady decline from the 2004 high of 61.9 percent to 57.9 percent in 2011 (Chart 3).

Chart 3: Percentage of Female and Male Family Class, 2002 to 2011



There has been a relatively steady increase in the proportion of women in the refugee and asylum stream from a low of 47.3 percent in 2002 to a high of 49.9 percent in 2011 (Chart 4).

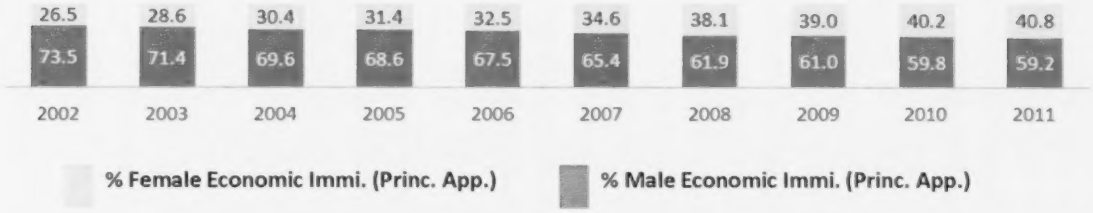
Chart 4: Percentage of Female and Male Refugees, 2002 to 2011



Male and female permanent residents—Principal economic applicants who enter Canada

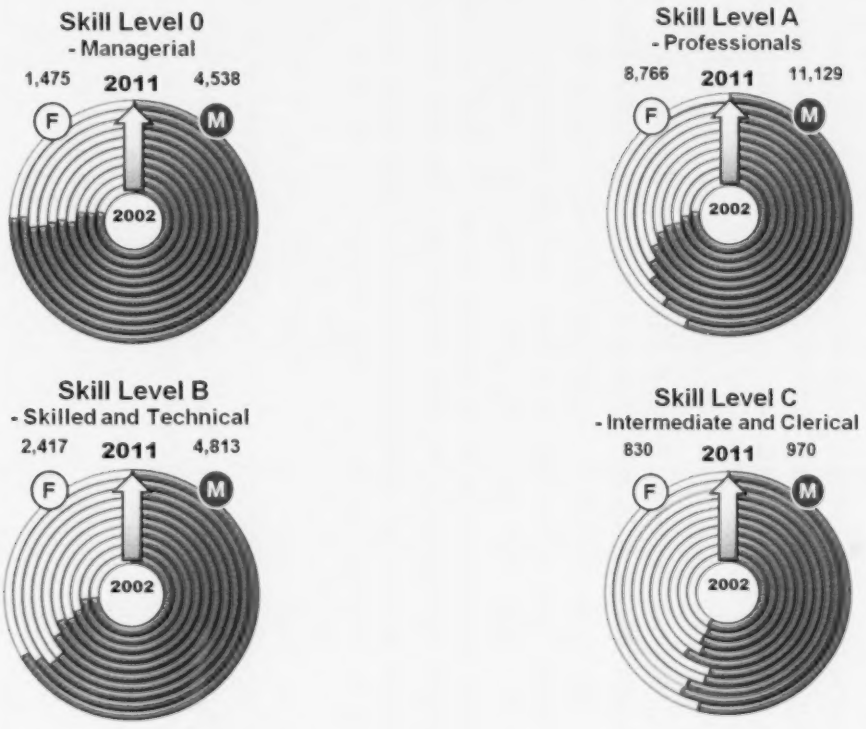
Women have been steadily making up an increasing proportion of economic principal applicants (skilled workers, entrepreneurs, self-employed, investors, Canadian Experience Class, provincial/territorial nominees and live-in caregivers). This increase is particularly marked when 2002 figures (26.5 percent) are compared with those of 2011 (40.8 percent) (Chart 5).

Chart 5: Percentage of Male and Female Principal Economic Applicants, 2002 to 2011



In the skilled workers category for principal applicants, a continuing trend saw a reduction in the gender gap from 2002 to 2011 (75 percent/25 percent to 61 percent/39 percent). This significant trend is also reflected in some of the different occupational skill level categories (Chart 6), for example, in the professional and the skilled and technical categories. In 2002, male principal applicants in the professional category accounted for 76.6 percent while women were at 23.4 percent. By 2011, female principal applicants in this category saw their largest proportion at 44.1 percent. The proportion of women in the skilled and technical category grew from 26.3 percent in 2002 to 33.4 percent in 2011, although the 2011 proportion was a decrease from the proportion of women in this category in 2008 and 2009.

Chart 6: Trends in Proportion of Female and Male Skilled Worker Entrants by Occupational Skill Level, 2002 to 2011



A more detailed analysis of the top-50 National Occupational Classification codes for male and female principal economic applicants also reveals interesting trends, which may be linked to the introduction since 2008 of successive Ministerial Instructions that have established eligible occupations for processing in the Federal Skilled Worker Program. Several occupations in the professional category saw significant growth for female economic principal applicants, especially when 2011 figures are compared with 2002, for example, in the following occupations:

- general practitioners and family physicians increased from six in 2002 to 298 in 2011;
- registered nurses from 170 to 2,150;
- college and other vocational instructors from 37 to 1,169; and
- specialist physicians from nine to 385.

For men, there was significant growth in:

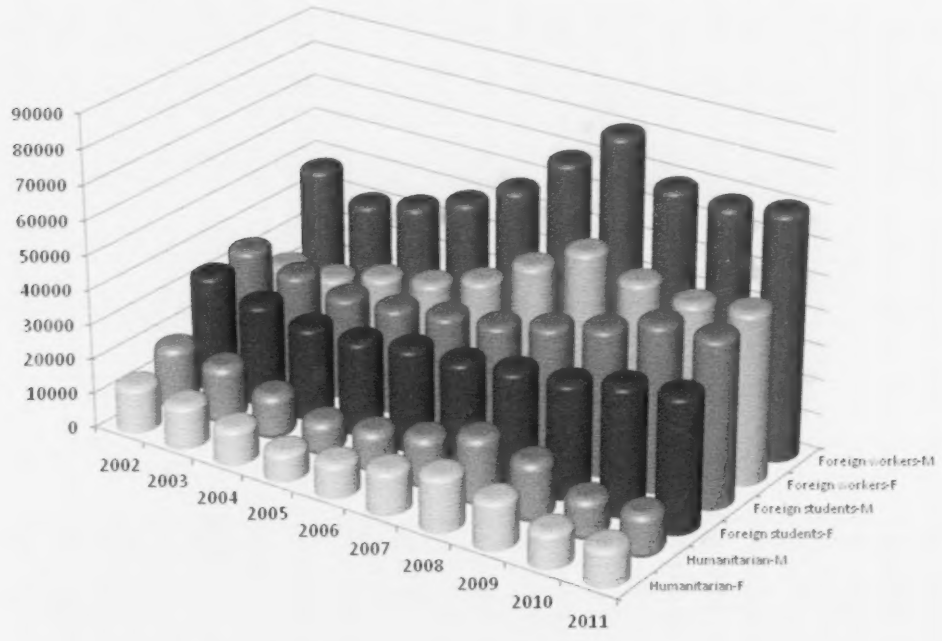
- information systems and data processing managers, from 27 in 2002 to 1,483 in 2011;
- specialist physicians from 47 to 744;
- general practitioners and family physicians from 87 to 524; and
- construction managers from 10 to 451.

In contrast, a number of engineering occupations showed steep declines for both men and women between 2002 and 2011. For example, the number of women entering as electrical and electronics engineers decreased from 485 in 2002 to 85 in 2011; men in this occupation dropped from 3,258 in 2002 to 560 in 2011.

Overview of Male and Female Temporary Resident Entries

For temporary resident initial entries (foreign worker, student, humanitarian grounds, and other categories), the 2011 total of 293,601 was down from the recent high in 2008 of 311,738. Chart 7 shows that men continued to represent the clear majority in these categories of temporary residents although the gap between the proportion of men and women in these three streams has decreased significantly. For instance, the proportion of female temporary foreign workers initial entries has steadily risen since 2002, hitting a peak of 41.4 percent in 2009, a figure that has remained stable since then. During the past decade, the gap was at its largest in 2002 with women representing 34.2 percent and men representing 65.8 percent of temporary foreign workers entering Canada during the year. An interesting counterpoint to this trend involved the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP): while there was significant growth between 2006 and 2008 in the total number of female temporary foreign workers, there was slower growth and then, beginning in 2007, a downward trend in the number of live-in caregivers entering Canada as temporary residents. In other words, growth in the number of female temporary workers is attributable to other temporary worker streams and not to the LCP, which is on a downward trend. It should also be noted that live-in caregivers who enter as temporary residents may subsequently apply for permanent resident status, with a peak of 7,890 occurring in 2010, falling to 5,210 permanent residents in 2011.

Chart 7: Trends in Proportion of Female and Male Temporary Foreign Workers, Students and Humanitarian Grounds Categories (Initial Entry), 2002 to 2011



Unlike other temporary resident entry streams, the initial entries in the international student stream has seen a widening of the gender gap over a 10-year period. While the relative proportion of men and women entrants was close to being equal in 2002 at 51 percent and 49 percent for men and women respectively, there was a gradual widening of the gap between men and women until 2007 (53.3 percent vs. 46.7 percent) followed by a more marked change until 2010 (56.4 percent vs. 43.6 percent). This gap narrowed slightly in 2011, with men making up 55.4 percent and women 44.6 percent. While it is difficult to speculate why this may be occurring, an analysis of source countries reveals that since 2007 there has been significant growth in male student entries from India alongside a decline in the number of female student entries from South Korea.

For the temporary resident humanitarian grounds stream (the bulk of whom are refugee claimants), there has been a gradual and continuing narrowing of gender representation, from a high of 57.9 percent for men in 2002 to the level of 54.4 percent for men in this stream in 2011.

Gender-based Analysis across CIC's Business Lines

In 2011, CIC continued to conduct GBA in policy and program development, as well as in initiatives in areas such as evaluation. Specific examples of work during the year are highlighted below and include initiatives within CIC's settlement, refugee, citizenship, health, and immigration policy and program areas.

Settlement Program

To meet Government of Canada and CIC accountability and evaluation requirements, the Department initiated work to redesign the way Settlement Program data are captured from service provider organizations (SPOs).[59] As part of this initiative, CIC is now continuing to redevelop a data collection system to include more detailed modules that will capture program outputs and immediate outcomes. Within the system, CIC has included official language and other language of preference data fields. In addition, CIC will also include gender and diversity questions related to target groups (e.g., youth, seniors, gender-specific, refugees, ethnic/cultural/linguistic groups, clients with hearing or visual impairments or other disabilities). Capturing this type of information will enhance CIC's understanding of client needs related to delivery of settlement services. In turn, this approach will help identify specific issues related to gender and diversity considerations associated with each target group in order to inform and adapt future policy and program development.

The Department is holding its first integrated, national call for proposals in 2012 and will be receiving applications for regional/local, national and international projects under the Settlement and Resettlement programs. This harmonized, centrally coordinated approach allows CIC to prioritize gender-based projects for funding over other equally successful proposals. The Call for Proposals 2012 Funding Guidelines state: "The Department will also strive to ensure gender and ethno cultural balance in the community of funding recipients". Specifically, we will use a gender-based focus when assessing projects for funding by allocating additional points for projects that reflect gender balance.

Reformed refugee system

To monitor the effectiveness of recent reforms to the in–Canada refugee determination system, CIC has developed and adopted an extensive list of indicators entitled the Metrics of Success (MoS). CIC will use the MoS to ensure that reforms meet their intended objectives, support improvements to system integrity, and meet reporting and accountability requirements. In developing the MoS, GBA was incorporated so that gender will be among claimant characteristics analysed to help understand and predict the impact that policy changes have on claimant behaviour. In doing so, refugee intake, decision outcomes and processing times will all be analysed from a number of perspectives, including gender, and the results reported in an in-depth quarterly report. A full evaluation of the new in-Canada refugee system will take place three years after the implementation of the reforms and will, in part, be based on the quantitative indicators that make up the MoS.

Similarly, GBA was conducted during the initial drafting of the Comprehensive Country Assessment Framework (CCAF). The overall objective of this framework is to support short- and longer-term policy development and decision making pertaining to refugee and related migration policy. The CCAF forms the basis of Comprehensive Country Assessment reports, which provide information on key elements of source countries of asylum seekers such as socio-economic conditions, security and human rights situation, conditions of at-risk populations, and recourse to state protection. Analysis of volume levels and impacts on the in-land asylum system of Canada is also included. Gender-based analysis was an important criterion used to determine the indicators included in the framework to assess at-risk populations, which may include (but would not be limited to) diverse groups of men, women and children.

Citizenship knowledge test

In the area of citizenship, knowledge test results continued to be monitored and were analysed by gender to support CIC's citizenship policy and program development. This analysis revealed that the overall test

pass rate of female applicants was approximately four percent lower than for male applicants. However, when comparing socio demographic factors influencing citizenship test pass rates, analyses by both CIC and Statistics Canada found that education was the most important variable influencing test pass rates. Once education was accounted for, most differences between demographic groups were negligible, including gender differences. In order to assist applicants in preparing for citizenship, CIC makes an audio version of the citizenship study guide available to facilitate learning of the content and concepts and to assist those working on their English- or French-language proficiency. An e-Book and mobile application version of the guide are also available to enhance accessibility. Furthermore, the issue of citizenship test pass rates was discussed with settlement organizations and provinces to obtain feedback on the needs of vulnerable groups. CIC is currently exploring options to further help applicants prepare for citizenship, including helping them meet the knowledge requirements.

Interim Federal Health Program

GBA was conducted as part of the review of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). The objective of the review was to ensure fairness to Canadians, strengthen eligibility criteria, protect public health and safety, and contain costs. The resulting changes to the IFHP will bring benefits better in line with government health benefits that most Canadians receive. The changes end supplementary health coverage for most beneficiaries; for failed claimants and refused claimants from Designated Countries of Origin, the changes provide coverage to protect public health and public safety. Where the GBA revealed disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups, mitigating measures were considered and measures that were consistent with the stated policy objectives were adopted. For example, as a result of the GBA, it was decided that prenatal and maternity services will continue for those who will have access to Health Care Coverage or Expanded Health Care Coverage under the IFHP. Following reform of the IFHP, CIC will collect and compare gender- and age-disaggregated data from program evaluations against the 2011–2012 baseline data.

Federal Skilled Worker Program

Policy development toward modernizing the selection of federal skilled workers examined how the impacts of proposed regulatory amendments might differ by gender. Overall objectives were to place greater importance on factors that are most strongly associated with successful economic outcomes, such as language abilities, Canadian work experience and the ability to contribute to the Canadian labour market for a longer period before retirement. Several potential GBA impacts were revealed in the analysis of the proposed changes. For example, caregiving responsibilities in the child-bearing years, which may force women to leave the work force, could impact women's ability to earn work experience points. However, proposed amendments would reduce the relative weight of work experience on the selection points grid, which would help mitigate this impact on women as caregivers. While the financial cost of applying for a foreign education credential assessment may disproportionately impact women who are more likely to have lower income, the anticipated cost was not expected to be so high as to serve as a barrier to the vast majority of cases given the nature of the program. Consequently, the GBA concluded that the underlying need for proposed changes and their anticipated benefits would significantly outweigh the potential negative impact on low-income women.

Gender-based Research

CIC continues to gather and generate gender-disaggregated data in support of policy and program development. For example, the Department's *Facts and Figures: Immigration Overview—Permanent and*

Temporary Residents is a key data source of immigration statistics for the government, researchers and stakeholders. *Facts and Figures* provides a gender breakdown by principal applicants and dependants, which can be further analysed to better understand the status of men and women in specific immigration categories.

GBA at CIC was also supported by relevant research conducted through the secretariat of the Metropolis Project, an international network that specializes in comparative research and public policy development on immigration issues. In 2011–2012, the last year of the third and final phase in CIC, Metropolis produced working papers and policy briefs on policy issues related to gender and diversity through its five Metropolis Centres of Excellence.[60]

During the year, Metropolis also hosted a number of Brown Bag seminars[61] that focused on gender and diversity issues. As well, the 14th National Metropolis Conference in Toronto in March 2012 focused on future immigration trends and policies and the challenges and opportunities that they create for Canadian society. The seminars included a large number of workshops and roundtables with gender and diversity themes.[62]

The Research and Evaluation Branch of CIC plans to build on the excellent work of Metropolis. Besides continuing to seek opportunities to collaborate with those who have been involved in the Metropolis Project, the branch will look for new partners who have a shared interest in policy-relevant research as it relates to gender and diversity. To this end, CIC has established a research partnerships function within its Research and Evaluation Branch.

Through its new *Policy on Gender-based Analysis*, CIC continues to view GBA as an essential tool to identify potential impacts on diverse groups of people and seeks to consider appropriate mitigating measures across all its business lines. In moving forward with this policy, the Department will identify new key areas of analysis, while continuing to collaborate with key GBA partners such as Status of Women Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Conclusion

Immigration continues to play a crucial role in shaping Canada's economic prosperity and sustainability. CIC's improvements in 2011 to the way it does business, continue to yield multiple benefits—supporting Canada's economic growth, continuing to reduce application backlogs, increasing protection to potential and new immigrants, and facilitating travel across our borders.

The changes have been much broader in 2012, which can be characterized as a year of transformation at CIC. Numerous changes have been implemented to align efforts with Canada's evolving economic conditions while keeping the Department's commitment to create a fast, flexible and responsive immigration system. Of note, the changes and accompanying legislative amendments under Bill C-38 became law on June 29, 2012, providing CIC the ability to select the best applicants and not necessarily the first, among other improvements. Changes introduced to CIC's sponsorship regulations advance program integrity by deterring people from using marriages of convenience to come to Canada, and by barring recently sponsored spouses and partners from sponsoring a new spouse or partner for five years. Lastly, Canada continues to uphold its humanitarian tradition by continuing to make reforms to its in-Canada refugee system through Bill C-31, which became law on June 28, 2012. This bill introduced much-needed reforms to the asylum system resulting in faster delivery of decisions on refugee claims and deterring abuse, thus enabling Canada to offer more timely protection to those who truly need it.

With 2013 on the horizon, CIC will continue to work toward building a fast, flexible and responsive immigration system that responds to Canada's labour market needs, upholds its family reunification and humanitarian commitments, while continuing to protect the health, safety and security of all Canadians.

Annex: Section 94 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*

The following extract from the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, which came into force in 2002, outlines the requirements for CIC to prepare an annual report to Parliament on immigration.

Reports to Parliament

94. (1) The Minister must, on or before November 1 of each year or, if a House of Parliament is not then sitting, within the next 30 days on which that House is sitting after that date, table in each House of Parliament a report on the operation of this Act in the preceding calendar year.

(2) The report shall include a description of

(a) the instructions given under section 87.3 and other activities and initiatives taken concerning the selection of foreign nationals, including measures taken in cooperation with the provinces;

(b) in respect of Canada, the number of foreign nationals who became permanent residents, and the number projected to become permanent residents in the following year;

(b1) in respect of Canada, the linguistic profile of foreign nationals who became permanent residents;

(c) in respect of each province that has entered into a federal–provincial agreement described in subsection 9(1), the number, for each class listed in the agreement, of persons that became permanent residents and that the province projects will become permanent residents there in the following year;

(d) the number of temporary resident permits issued under section 24, categorized according to grounds of inadmissibility, if any;

(e) the number of persons granted permanent resident status under each of subsections 25(1), 25.1(1) and 25.2(1); and

(f) a gender-based analysis of the impact of this Act.

Endnotes

[1] For more information, see **http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/I-2.5/index.html.**

[2] The numbers appearing in this report may differ from those reported in earlier publications. These differences reflect adjustments to CIC's administrative data files that normally occur over time.

[3] For more information, see **http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/I-2.5/index.html.**

[4] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-01-31.asp**.

[5] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/service-standards.asp.**

[6] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/notices/notice-modernization.asp.**

[7] For more information, see **http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/page/bbg-tpf/perimeter-security-and-economic-competitiveness-action-plan.**

[8] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/mi/index.asp.**

[9] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2009/2009-10-30.asp.**

[10] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-06-24a.asp.**

[11] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-11-04.asp.**

[12] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-11-04.asp.**

[13] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/supervisa.asp.**

[14] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-11-02.asp.**

[15] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-06-28.asp.**

[16] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2010/2010-12-18.asp.**

[17] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/index.asp.**

[18] For more information, see **www.budget.gc.ca/2012/home-accueil-eng.html.**

[19] For more information, see **http://parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Docid=5697420&file=4.**

[20] For more information, see **www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/publications/fcr/pcf_folder/section_2_01.shtml.**

[21] For more information, see **http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_201111_02_e_35934.html**

[22] For more information, see **www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Docid=5697417&file=4.**

[23] For more information, see **www.publicsafety.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx.**

[24] For more information, see **www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html.**

[25] For more information, see **www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/index.htm.**

[26] For more information, see **www.csis-scrs.gc.ca/index-eng.asp.**

[27] For more information, see **www.justice.gc.ca/eng.**

[28] For more information, see **www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index-eng.php.**

[29] For more information, see **http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/I-2.5/index.html.**

[30] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/annual-report2010/index.asp.**

[31] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/menu-fact.asp.**

[32] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-11.asp#economic.**

[33] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-06-24a.asp.**

[34] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-11-04.asp.**

[35] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/evaluation/pnp/index.asp.**

[36] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-21.asp#family.**

[37] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-11-04.asp.**

[38] For more information, see **www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2011/2011-12-07/html/sor-dors262-eng.html.**

[39] For more information, see **www.unhcr.org/.**

[40] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-22.asp.**

[41] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-22.asp.**

[42] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-changes.asp.**

[43] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-12.asp#workers.**

[44] For more information, see **www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml.**

[45] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2011/2011-12-15.asp.**

[46] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-12.asp#students.**

[47] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/paa/2012/activity-42.asp#visitors.**

[48] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp.**

[49] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/laws-policy/agreements/index.asp.**

[50] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/partner/bpss/index.asp.**

[51] For more information, see **www.destination-canada-forum-emploi.ca.**

[52] For more information, see **www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/publications/fcr/pcf.shtml.**

[53] For more information, see **www.credentials.gc.ca/jobs/what-you-can-do/internship-program.asp.**

[54] For more information, see **www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/corporate/photo_gallery/2012/02/22/00/index.shtml.**

[55] For more information, see **www.iafcanada.org.**

[56] For more information, see **www.credentials.gc.ca/iqn.**

[57] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/multi-report2011/index.asp.**

[58] For more information see, **www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pol/gba-acs/ap-pa/ap-pa-eng.html.**

[59] For more information, see **www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/spo.asp.**

[60] For more information, see **http://canada.metropolis.net/centres/index_e.html.**

[61] For more information, see **http://canada.metropolis.net/events/events_e.html.**

[62] For more information, see **http://canada.metropolis.net/events/14th_national_conference_toronto/video/videos.html**.